



POLICY

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Bill Haslam
Governor of Tennessee
State Capitol
1st Floor
Nashville, TN 37243-0001

FEB 21 2012

Dear Governor Haslam:

I am pleased to present you with an updated report detailing a significant movement that is impacting your state.

As a former state legislator, I understand the important role that non-profit organizations serve in helping to meet the needs of our constituents, especially in tight economic times like these. For that reason I wanted you to have a copy of the Family Research Council's report, *A Passion to Serve: How Pregnancy Resource Centers Empower Women, Help Families and Strengthen Communities*. This report presents the tremendous achievements and contributions of the Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) movement. It traces the nearly four decades of service by those with a passion for life working together to provide safe and supportive places where pregnant women can discover their options and receive needed care. Found in virtually every type of community across the country, PRCs serve some 2.3 million people each year with pregnancy assistance, abstinence counseling and education, community outreach programs and referrals, and public health linkages. Known by various names (e.g., Crisis Pregnancy Centers, Pregnancy Support Centers, etc.), all PRCs meet basic needs and provide healthy alternatives to abortion.

For years, state legislatures have been dealing with issues such as late-term abortion, personhood amendments, fetal pain, ultrasound, parental notification and abortion in insurance coverage. Now, legislative attacks on pregnancy resource centers are occurring with more frequency. It is our hope that the enclosed report will increase your awareness of how this significant movement is already impacting your state and give you both the desire and means to defend the valuable services that the PRCs provide.

Operating as model community-based groups, privately funded and volunteer driven, PRC achievements are impressive, a dramatic example of the power of citizen action to change lives and improve communities. *A Passion to Serve* lays out in detail, through statistical summaries, case studies and client stories, the extraordinary social service contributions made by the nation's PRCs meeting the needs of women, youth and families. The report lists basic services performed by the pregnancy centers and estimates the total cost savings to the nation's communities to be \$100,888,000 for 2010. In addition to specific cost savings, pregnancy centers drew on the help of 71,000 volunteers who performed an estimated 5,705,555 uncompensated hours of work in 2010.

I hope you will take time to acquaint yourself with the untold story of this great network of centers. More than 2300 pregnancy resource centers across America are providing a lifeline to women who do not want to abort but need community support during a difficult transitional life change. I urge you to promote and protect the PRCs as one more truly legitimate choice for women facing an unplanned pregnancy.

Copies of the report can be downloaded at <http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF12A47.pdf>. Pregnancy resource centers in your state can be located by logging on to <http://www.optionline.org>. If you need personal assistance, please contact Sherry Crater at smc@frc.org or 202-637-4607.

Sincerely,

Tony Perkins
President

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